

Questions for Walter Pforzheimer: 3rd interview

p. 91 of our first interview: you label Bedell Smith "the greatest of them all [DCIs]." Can you amplify?

In our first interview you say that DCI Smith tried to lunch every Monday with congressmen but couldn't work it out. Dulles, you state, had occasional lunches with certain select congressmen. How important were contacts of this sort for smoothing CIA's way in Congress? Given the many other demands on the time of the DCI, is this a ~~preferable~~ wise allocation of his time? Can you give any specific illustrations where cultivation of a congressman by this sort of activity paid dividends for the Agency?

In the roughly 9 1/2 years you spent handling congressional relations, how many people did you have working for you on liaison matters? Were they lawyers, analysts, case officers, public relations experts?

In 1949 you apparently spent a lot of time in PRC meetings [Project Review Committee]. Was this related at all to your liaison duties?

Your Journal suggests that you spent a great deal of time handling referrals from congressmen for people seeking employment. How did a congressional referral differ from other referrals?

An occasional note says a certain application should be "handled carefully." What did this entail?

Do you remember any specific dealings with John Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, or Gerald Ford while each was in Congress? Any occurrences which might have had a bearing on their presidential attitude toward CIA?

Can you explain the Agency's interest in private bills concerning immigration which came up from time to time?

The Joint Committee on Atomic Energy apparently received FBIB publications. I have also seen a 1947 memo from you concerning distribution of FBIB reports to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. Who on the Hill routinely received Agency publications? Were these unclassified documents? Do you recall any battles with congressmen, committees, or committee staffers concerning distribution of Agency reports or publications?

Does the fact that CIA has a relatively large percentage of its personnel in higher grades ever create any problems on the Hill?

Did anyone on the Hill ever raise eyebrows about the percentage of the CIA budget allotted for unvouchered funds?

You speak very highly of George Harvey of the House Appropriations Committee in one of your memos I have seen. Tell me about him. Do you know where he is today?

I sometimes get the impression that in the early years of the Agency, Congress exercised supervision of the CIA primarily in terms of saving money and seeing that taxdollars were not wasted. Oversight of specific operations, on the other hand, was clearly not of concern to many. Concern for the quality of the intelligence product fell inbetween these other two. Can you comment on the above, and on the overall topic of congressional oversight between 1947 and 1956?

Insofar as oversight failed in the 1950s (and perhaps it is unfair even to suggest that it did fail), one gets the sense that this was not due to a lack of good will on either side, but to institutional factors, particularly within Congress, making effective, knowledgeable, and continuing oversight very difficult. Any comments?

What precautions were taken to insure physical security in congressional offices and hearings rooms? Sweeps, for instance? Did this fall within your purview?

Was it routine to debrief congressmen following their overseas trips? What sort of services did you provide congressmen or congressional staffers who were about to embark upon a trip overseas?